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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,653	02/16/2001	Michael James Hunter	4-13-4	2985

7590 01/29/2004
 Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
 Suite 205
 1300 Post Road
 Fairfield, CT 06430

EXAMINER

DANG, KHANH NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2111

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,653

Applicant(s)

HUNTER ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh Dang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okazaki.

At the outset, it is noted that similar claims will be grouped together to avoid repetition in explanation.

As broadly drafted, claims 1-4 and 7-15 do not define any structure that differs from Okazaki. With regard to claims 1 and 8, Okazaki discloses a bidirectional bus repeater circuit, comprising: a connector (see Fig. 1) to a first segment of a bidirectional bus (a bus providing connection between bus A and bus B); a connector (see Fig. 1) to

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a second segment of a bidirectional bus (a bus providing connection between bus A and bus B); and a pair of buffers (11, 12) for each bit on said bidirectional bus, each buffer (11, 12) in the pair transferring data in a given direction between the first segment and the second segment of the bidirectional bus of the bidirectional bus; and a pair of indicator lines (in Okazaki, each indicator line S2/S3, associated with one of the segments of the bus to enable the corresponding buffers (11 and 12) is activated upon a change in voltage (bias circuit 4)), wherein a single voltage change on one of the indicator lines causes one or more of the pair of buffers (11, 12) to transfer data in a given direction for a finite period of time. With regard to claims 2 and 9, the device of Okazaki further comprises an additional pair of buffers (2, 3) associated with a pair of indicator lines (S2, S3) controlling the bi-directional bus. With regard to claims 3 and 10, the device of Okazaki further comprises a direction control block (5) that controls the direction of the bi-directional bus based on activity on one of indicator lines (S2/S3, for example) associated with the bidirectional bus. With regard to claims 4 and 11, it is clear that a given node connected to the bidirectional bus must toggle (ON/OFF switching in Okazaki) one of the indicator lines in order to drive the bidirectional bus. With regard to claim 7, see explanation regarding claim 6. See also col. 2, line 60 to col. 3, line 54). With regard to claims 12-15, it is clear that one using the device of Okazaki would have performed the same steps set forth in claims 12-15.

R sponse to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed 11/28/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

At the outset, Applicants are reminded that claims subject to examination will be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55 (Fed. Cir. 1997). In fact, the "examiner has the duty of police claim language by giving it the broadest reasonable interpretation." *Springs Window Fashions LP v. Novo Industries, L.P.*, 65 USPQ2d 1862, 1830, (Fed. Cir. 2003). Applicants are also reminded that claimed subject matter not the specification, is the measure of the invention. Disclosure contained in the specification cannot be read into the claims for the purpose of avoiding the prior art. *In re Sporck*, 55 CCPA 743, 386 F.2d, 155 USPQ 687 (1986).

With this in mind, the discussion will focus on how the terms and relationships thereof in the claims are met by the references. Response to any limitations that are not in the claims or any arguments that are irrelevant and/or do not relate to any specific claim language will not be warranted.

The Okazaki 102(b) Rejection:

With regard to claim 1 (with claims 2, 4, and 7 stand or fall together), claim 8 (with claims 9-11 stand or fall together), and claim 12 (with claims 13-15 stand or fall together), Applicants argued that Okazaki does not disclose or suggest "a pair of indicator signals, wherein a single voltage change on one of said indicator signals

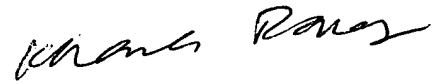
causes each of said pair of buffers to transfer data in a given direction for a finite period of time.” In response, it is first noted that Applicants’ argument does not correctly relate to the claim language. Claims 1, 8, and 12 require “a pair of indicator signals, wherein a single voltage change on one of said indicator signals causes one or more (emphasis added) of said pair of buffers to transfer data in a given direction for a finite period of time.” In any event, contrary to Applicants’ argument, Okazaki discloses a pair of indicator signals (S2 and S3), wherein a single voltage change (low (L) or high (H)) on one of the indicator signals (S2 and S3) causes one or more of the pair of buffers (11 and 12) to transfer data in a given direction for a finite period of time.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Khanh Dang at telephone number 703-308-0211.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Khanh Dang", written in a cursive style.

Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner